A MEMORIAL EXHIBITION OF THE WORKS OF PIERRE BONNARD

There will be held at the Museum between March 3 and April 12 a memorial exhibition of the painting and graphic art of Pierre Bonnard, which has been arranged by Monroe Wheeler and John Rewald and is sponsored conjointly by the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and by The Cleveland Museum of Art, the latter's participation in this event having been made possible by a gift from Hanna Fund. The exhibition will contain over eighty oils, supplemented by drawings and prints, generously lent by private individuals, institutions, and dealers from both the United States, France, and other countries of the European continent. The initial memorial exhibition of Bonnard's work was shown last autumn at the Musee de l'Art Moderne, and was arranged through George Salles, Director General of the Museums of France, and Charles Terrasse, Curator of the Museum of Fontainebleau and nephew of the painter, and members of the artist's family. Through the courtesy of these same people, it has been possible to assemble now in America an exhibition which includes many loans from this initial exhibition as well as loans of other pictures, some belonging to American collections. The exhibition will be shown later at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, from May 11 to July 25. Originally, the idea in having an exhibition of Bonnard's work was to celebrate the painter's eightieth birthday in October, 1947; the artist, however, died in January, 1947, but before his death he had approved such an exhibition.

Bonnard's position as one of the chief painters of France, entitles him to recognition in America, where his work up to now has been rarely seen, although the presence in this country of many fine examples of his painting would denote a keen interest. Never before on these shores has there been gathered together such a representative group of his work, most of which has never previously been exhibited publicly in this country. It will give an unusual opportunity to evaluate, in proper fashion, the work of an outstanding creative figure of the turn of the century in France.

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